

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 H-02 SS-15 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00

FCC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-15 COME-00 BIB-01

NSC-05 L-03 TRSE-00 /076 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CAN:DBLAKEMORE/JHROUSE:RM

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EB/TT/TD:DANDERSON (INFO)

H:HNELSON (INFO)

S/S: RGAMBLE

S:DPASSAGE

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P 310004Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 189736

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, CA

SUBJECT: BORDER TELEVISION

1. SECRETARY HAS BEEN SENT LETTER SIGNED BY 18 SENATORS (LISTED BELOW) ON SUBJECT QUESTION. LETTER HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED BUT WAS INTRODUCED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD JULY 28 BY SENATOR SCOTT. DEPARTMENT ALREADY GETTING PRESS QUERIES TO WHICH WE ARE DEFERRING RESPONSE UNTIL LETTER ACTUALLY RECEIVED. WILL ADVISE EMBASSY OF SUBSTANTIVE PRESS GUIDANCE SUBSEQUENTLY.

2. LETTER NOTES RECENT PASSAGE BY CANADIAN PARLIAMENT OF BILL C-58 AND URGES THAT THE SECRETARY "CONTACT THE GOC AND INDICATE THE USG'S INTEREST IN PROCEEDING WITH IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ENTIRE RANGE OF CANADIAN POLICIES
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ADVERSELY AFFECTING U.S. BORDER BROADCAST STATIONS BEFORE

BILL C-58 IS PROMULGATED." AFTER ASSERTING THAT NEGOTIATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE ENTIRE RANGE OF OUTSTANDING BILATERAL BROADCAST ISSUES, LETTER CONCLUDES: "WE HAD HOPED THAT NEITHER SIDE WOULD ACT PRECIPITOUSLY IN A LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE THOSE NEGOTIATIONS WERE COMPLETED. HOWEVER, IF CANADA INSISTS ON PROMULGATING BILL C-58, WE BELIEVE IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THE U.S. SERIOUSLY CONSIDER A LEGISLATIVE RESPONSE."

3. LETTER ALSO TRANSMITS THE TEXT OF A POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE RESPONSE. ITS THREE MAIN PROVISIONS WOULD:

A) AUTHORIZE THE FCC TO CERTIFY CASES WHERE ACTIONS OF A FOREIGN NATION ARE UNFAIR TO, DISCRIMINATE AGAINST OR OTHERWISE ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S. STATIONS WHOSE SIGNALS CROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS;

B) AMEND SECTION 301 OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 TO PROVIDE THAT WHEN AN FCC CERTIFICATION IS MADE PER SUBPARA A) ABOVE, THE PRESIDENT MAY PROHIBIT THE IMPORT OF FEATURE FILMS, VIDEO TAPES, ETC., FROM THE OFFENDING NATION.

C) AUTHORIZE IMPOSITION OF A 50 PERCENT EXCISE TAX ON EXPORTS TO SUCH AN OFFENDING NATION OF VIDEO TAPES AND TELEVISION FILMS IN EXCESS OF 5 MINUTES DURATION. PROCEEDS WOULD GO TO THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING.

4. LETTER WAS SIGNED BY FOLLOWING SENATORS: MAGNUSON, JACKSON, TOWER, BROCK, WILLIAMS, SCHWEIKER, LEAHY, STONE, BAKER, CHILES, HELMS, STAFFORD, ALLEN, TUNNEY, SCOTT, JAVITTS, BUCKLEY AND HUMPHREY.

5. COPY OF LETTER AND DRAFT LEGISLATION BEING POUCHED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 31 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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